OUR GRAND MASTER'S SLOGAN
"A REVITALIZED AND GREATER TEMPLARY"

THE TEMPLAR

A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

GEORGE A. WEEKS, *Grand Recorder* ALFRED C. BLAKE, *Grand Commander*

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EMINENT SIRS AND SIR KNIGHTS:

I am very glad to announce that another Joint Conclave, similar to the one so successfully held in Boston on October 29, will be held in the Masonic Temple in Haverhill, Massachusetts on Saturday, January 31st, 1959 at 4:00 P.M. DeMolay Commandery will put on the Order of Red Cross in full form including the Feast of Belteshazza. The Eastern Star will serve a special Dinner and Hugh de Payens will put on the Order of Malta in full form at 7:30.

I urge all Commanderies to make a special effort to obtain candidates and to bring them to this Conclave. There will be no registration fee for candidates; in fact the only expense will be the cost of the dinner tickets, which is $2.25 each, including gratuities.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your candidates to witness an impressive and beautiful rendition of both Orders in full form, and I sincerely hope all of you will take advantage of it.

Firm reservations, accompanied by a check covering the cost of the dinner tickets must be made in advance with E. Sir Raymond S. Seaver, 226 Whittier Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

An attempt will be made to conclude the Exemplification at Waltham so as to enable those attending to leave in time to arrive in Haverhill. Commanderies planning to bring their candidates to Haverhill should make definite arrangements to do so as soon as possible.

Plans are also underway to have a similar Joint Conclave in the Western part of Massachusetts, probably sometime in April. Further details will be announced at a later date.

Courteously yours,

ALFRED C. BLAKE, Grand Commander.

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COMING EVENT:

No doubt you remember the splendid All Masonic Festival sponsored by Aleppo Temple of the Shrine last year on the evening of Saturday, June 7, supplementing earlier All Masonic Nights held June 4, 1955, June 2, 1956 and June 8, 1957, each of which events proved such an outstanding success.

There will be a similar All Masonic Night at the Garden again sponsored by Aleppo Temple, on Saturday evening, June 13, 1959. The Shrine will again display its pageantry, and provide suitable recognition of not only our Grand Master, and possibly our present Imperial Potentate, but also other ranking Masons in both the York and Scottish Rite.

As we approach the New Year, let our hearts be overflowing with gratitude for the many blessings we, as Templars, enjoy on every hand. Among these blessings are our Freedom, National Peace, our Public School System, and the Tolerance, Prosperity, Joy, and Love for mankind, all of which are in keeping with the principles of Templary. May God bless every one.

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The Order of Knights Templar is a uniformed organization, dating back to its very inception. The Uniform exemplifies our correlation with the original Knights Templar of the 11th and 12th Centuries, who established the Order to aid Christians on their pilgrimages to Jerusalem to offer their devotions at the Holy Temple.

The First Crusade

In the closing years of the 11th Century there was a monk - Peter, by name. He saw what was happening to the birthplace of Jesus. It was in the hands of infamous people. He wanted to save the birthplace of Jesus so he organized a small group to go to the Holy Land. They were beset upon and many were killed. Peter returned to his native Amiens and set out to make known to the masses of people the conditions existing in the Holy Land.

Peter the Hermit told his story so well that in 1095 a council was called at Claremont in Southern France. Some 300,000 people were inspired to take action against the Moslems and conditions in the Holy Land. Out of this came the First Crusade.

Destruction of The Templars

On the night of the 10th of October, 1307, when the Grand Master (Order of the Temple) and his principal officers were reposing in confidence in the Christian Capital of France, they were surprised and seized in the House of the Temple in Paris at the break of day, and at the same time, by a preconcerted plan, all the Knights in France were arrested and thrown into prison. Many were put to torture to force them to confess crimes of which they were ignorant, and those who survived the rack were condemned to pine in prison. At length they were led out in bands, at one time some 50 together, and burned to death upon fagots.

After nearly 7 years in prison, the Grand Master, Jacques de Molai, renowned in many a hard fought field in Palestine, in defense of the Christian faith, and four of his priors, were led out on the 14th of March, 1314, and burnt before the cathedral of Paris. But even these acts did not destroy all the true and noble spirits that remained.

--Temple Topics

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The Eminent Commander of Holy Sepulchre Commandery #8 writes:

"Lest we forget! No ONE has builded alone, whether a cross he was gilding or whether he carried a stone." The Grand Commandery Membership Committee has given us a quota of 25 petitions for the year. This can be achieved in a single month if each Sir Knight will lend a hand. True, every Commander wants to have a good year. It is also true that economically our Commandery cannot afford a poor year. The economy of the Commandery requires at least fifteen candidates each year to stay in the black. Death, demits, etc., over the years have

made a steady reduction in our membership. On the other side of the ledger: Costs, continually rising! We may sound mercenary, but running the Commandery is like running a business, and in any business you pay your bills or else! So we come to the indisputable fact, more candidates or dues! In the end result, without candidates the raising of dues accomplishes nothing.

Our Commandery is a part of a great Christian Order. An Order whose every member has sworn to wield his sword in defense of the Christian Religion. Sir Knights who accept Jesus Christ as their Great Commander and who are ready to live or die in HIS cause. An Order whose one central purpose is, namely, to confess Jesus Christ before the world and to express a determination to follow the banner of the cross until "the Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Christ." This is Templarism. This is what I ask you to devote a small part of your time and effort to help grow.

Courteously,
SEARLES T. BRAY

Make the Effort

Many times an excellent idea is advanced by an individual Mason, or by a Templar, an idea which may have a great deal of merit, and which may contribute to the general welfare of Masonry and Templary.

Many times, too, an idea is rejected on the grounds that only a small percentage of the brothers will avail themselves of the good contained in the proposal.

Should we withhold such an opportunity from those who sincerely and earnestly seek More Light?

Should we destroy our libraries because only a few read the best books

The sincere effort is never in vain. Growth in Masonic knowledge and wisdom is by degrees, and so long as an honest effort is being made, Masonry is progressing - and Templary will progress.

Universal Brotherhood

"When the world has been plunged in savagery and superstition, when continents have been drenched in blood, when cruelty has immured the disciples of civil and religious liberty and stretched them upon the rack, the Masonic sign of distress has always been recognized on the battlefield or in the torture chamber and with it the kinship of blood and brotherhood."

-- Chauncey M. Depew

Attributes for Massachusetts State Flag, as suggested by Ernest J. Comi, P.C. and Recorder, Joseph Warren Commandery #26

The flag of our Commonwealth is white. In the center of the field is a blue shield, within which is the figure of an Indian from which is derived the name of our State "Massachusetts" meaning "THE PLACE OF GREAT HILLS" - and at the top left point of the shield is the ever watchful STAR OF BETHLEHEM. Over the shield is the mailed arm and hand, grasping the sword of justice, which is ever drawn to guard the constitution of our Commonwealth; under it is the motto of our state:

ENSE PETIT PLACIDAM - SUB LIBERTATE QUIETEM

meaning:

BY THE SWORD WE SEEK PEACE,
BUT PEACE ONLY UNDER LIBERTY.

1958-1959 GRAND COMMANDERY STATISTICS

COMMANDERY	QUOTA	3 MOS.	DEC.	TOTAL
St. John's	42	0	1	1
Boston	75	9	11	20
Newburyport	20	1	0	1
Washington	7	1	0	1
Worcester County	49	3	5	8
Springfield	35	4	1	5
De Molay	54	14	6	20
Holy Sepulchre	24	0	0	0
Pilgrim	20	5	0	5
Palestine	13	2	1	3
Milford	11	2	1	3
St. Bernard	6	3	0	3
Calvary	42	4	0	4
Haverhill	25	1	6	7
Old Colony	13	0	4	4
Sutton	36	0	0	0
Bethany	9	0	0	0
Winslow Lewis	14	0	0	0
Jerusalem	19	0	4	4
Hugh de Payens	40	4	4	8
St. Omer	21	5	1	6
Berkshire	17	19	1	20
Conn. Valley	10	0	0	0
Woonsocket	12	1	0	1
Godfrey DeBouillon	8	4	2	6
Joseph Warren	11	1	0	1
Narragansett	13	0	0	0
Bristol	17	2	1	3
Northampton	7	1	1	2
South Shore	10	1	2	3
Trinity	12	2	1	3
Natick	17	3	NN	3
Coeur DeLion	24	7	3	10
Gethsemane	32	4	5	9
Olivet	30	3	0	3
Athol	9	1	4	5
Bay State	26	0	6	6
Cyprus	11	2	0	2
St. Paul	8	0	0	0
Beauseant	22	2	2	4
Cambridge	10	0	0	0
Bethlehem	10	0	2	2
Orange	5	3	2	5
Ivanhoe	17	3	0	3
Quincy	20	7	1	8
Temple	13	5	0	5
St. Andrew	10	2	0	2
Reading	20	10	0	10
Thomas Smith Webb	12	0	8	8
Sir Galahad	12	0	0	0
TOTALS	1,000	141	86	227

1958-59 MONTHLY OBJECTIVE NECESSARY TO REACH QUOTA

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	55	19
Oct.	130	77
Nov.	98	45
Dec.	82	86
Jan.	108	
Feb.	124	
Mar.	116	
Apr.	116	
May	112	
June	59	

ACCUMULATIVE

	OBJ.	ACT.
Sept.	55	19
Oct.	185	96
Nov.	283	141
Dec.	365	227
Jan.	473	
Feb.	597	
Mar.	713	
Apr.	829	
May	941	
June	1,000	

COMPARISON

	1959	1958	1957	1956
Sept.	19	45	53	54
Oct.	96	140	185	167
Nov.	141	221	241	251
Dec.	227	269	312	291
Jan.		349	409	370
Feb.		430	520	480
Mar.		511	616	549
Apr.		613	707	616
May		693	772	691
June		744	832	722

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Sir Knights:

Orange Commandery has the honor of being the second commandery to reach its petition quota in the current Templar year. Congratulations to Em. Commander Stephen J. Shovan!

Our December results show an improvement, but we are still behind our cumulative petition quota for this year and comparative totals for recent years.

Where there is the <u>will</u> to do there is a <u>way</u> to accomplishment. Make this year one of accomplishment for your commandery and for Templary!

J. Leroy Jones, Director
Membership Progress & Publicity